

A SUNNYSIDE SUN ORIGINAL PUBLICATION | ISSUE 06 | JUNE 24, 2026

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



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**Congratulations
Graduates!**

Class of
 **2026**

A dark blue background featuring a graduation cap with a gold tassel, a rolled-up diploma with a red seal, and several gold streamers.A stylized letter 'S' logo, with the top half in black and the bottom half in red.

Class Of
2026

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Sunnyside High School Graduates!

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Sunnyside High School sends off 448 graduates

KENNIA PEREZ
Sunnyside Sun

Sunnyside High School's Class of 2026 was encouraged to embrace uncertainty, learn from adversity and remember those who helped them reach graduation during their commencement ceremony on June 5.

A total of 448 graduates crossed the stage, marking the end of their high school careers and the beginning of paths that include higher education, military service and careers in the workforce.

The ceremony also highlighted the accomplishments of the graduating class. Eighty-one students earned a combined \$4,784,045 in scholarships and grants.

Before the celebration continued, school officials paused to honor three members of the Class of 2026 who died before reaching graduation.

"Today, as we celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2026, we also pause to remember and honor the names of those students of the senior class who are no longer with us," Sunnyside High School Principal Gabriel Darbyson said, recognizing Anthony Gutierrez, Sebastian Osorio and Israel Ramirez. "Though they are not here to walk across the stage tonight, they remain a lasting part of our school community and of our hearts."

Family members, friends and classmates observed a moment of silence to reflect on the impact the three students had on the school community.

Darbyson also reflected on



Courtesy/Andrew Hamil

Sunnyside High School's Class of 2026 held their commencement ceremony on Friday, June 5, 2026 at the Sunnyside Memorial Athletic Complex in Sunnyside, Wash.

the passage of time and the transition awaiting graduates.

"When you first walked into this building as freshmen, four years felt like forever. Graduation seemed distant, and now you're sitting here in caps and gowns wondering how it all moved so fast," he said. "That's the great puzzle of youth."

He encouraged graduates to move forward with purpose, take risks and embrace the opportunities ahead.

Referencing the film "The Goonies," Darbyson reminded students they were standing on the edge of the unknown while carrying the support of the Grizzly community with them.

Faculty speaker Jeanine Bator challenged graduates to remember

that their value extends beyond accomplishments and future plans.

"Remember that you define you," she said. "You are the greatest achievement of your lives."

Similar themes emerged during the annual baccalaureate service held on June 4, when members of the Class of 2026 gathered with family, friends and community members to celebrate faith, perseverance and the transition into the next chapter of their lives.

Pastor Dan Chavez addressed those in attendance, comparing life to a paper map rather than a GPS navigation system.

While a GPS can warn travelers about obstacles

ahead, Chavez said life often requires people to move forward without knowing exactly what challenges they will face.

"There will be traffic jams. There will be roadblocks. There will be crises and accidents along the way," Chavez said. "Don't just go through it. Grow through it."

Using James 1:2-5 as the foundation of his message, Chavez encouraged graduates to seek wisdom during difficult times and trust that challenges can strengthen both character and faith.

Kennia Perez is a reporter at the Sunnyside Sun. Email kperez@sunnysidesun.com or call 509-837-4500 ext 110.



Congratulations to the 2026 recipients of the Linde Family Scholarship!

From Sunnyside High School, Jose Valencia and Daniela Macias pictured at left.

From Granger High School, Corina Slade, pictured at right.

Also pictured are Yakima County Commissioner LaDon Linde and Sandra Linde



Sunnyside honors top 20 graduates at banquet

JOB WISE

Sunnyside Sun

Out of a graduating class of nearly 450 students, 20 seniors at Sunnyside High School were recognized for earning the school's highest academic honors during the annual Academic Honors Banquet held May 18. Each of the students achieved a GPA of 3.9 or higher.

Upon arrival, honorees and their guests were welcomed into the event as the SHS Orchestra provided background music.

SHS Principal Gabriel Darbyson opened the evening by welcoming students and their families.

Following dinner catered by Conquistador Mexican Restaurant, the program continued with remarks from one of this year's salutatorians, Jesus Cano.

Cano, who shared salutatorian honors with Lynnet Ramos-Alcala, reflected on his high school journey, acknowledging both



Job Wise/Sunnyside Sun

Salutatorian Jesus Cano speaks during Sunnyside High School's Academic Honors Banquet on May 18, 2026.

challenges and successes while emphasizing the importance of learning from mistakes. Both students achieved the school's second-highest GPA of 3.98.

Six valedictorians were also recognized during the event: Sarahi Aviles, Angel Barcenas, Damien Candido-Vargas, Alyssa Castilleja, Gunner Porter and

Jane Weaver. Each earned a perfect 4.0 GPA and were invited to speak during the graduation ceremony on June 5 at 8 p.m.

As each scholar was introduced, their GPA and post-graduation plans were shared with those in attendance.

Additional seniors graduating summa cum laude with GPAs of

3.9 or higher include Alexander Carmona-Mondragon, Emily Gallardo, Omar Hidalgo-Garcia, Madelyn Humpherys, Daniela Macias, Yaneli Ramos-Martinez, Maria Silva-Alva, Danica Torres, Mesiah Valdez and Aaron Waywell.

The students received honor cords and commemorative plaques, while valedictorians and salutatorians were also presented with engraved medals.

The evening concluded with cupcakes, photos and time for families and students to celebrate together as they marked the milestone achievement.

Job Wise is co-owner of the Sunnyside Sun. Email jwise@sunnysidesun.com or call 509-837-4500 ext 116.

Editor's Note: This story originally appeared in the Sunnyside Sun on May 20, 2026. It has been edited for the Graduation magazine.

CONGRATULATIONS 2026 GRADUATES

*Your hard work and dedication
have paid off, and we can't wait
to see all you accomplish next.
Best wishes for a bright future!*

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Sunnyside students lead effort to honor deceased classmates at graduation

KENNIA PEREZ
Sunnyside Sun

As graduates took their seats during Sunnyside High School's commencement ceremony on Friday, June 5, 2026, attendees may have noticed several empty chairs among the graduating class.

The chairs were intentional.

Following Sunnyside School Board approval of a new policy on May 27, the district allowed a chair to be placed at graduation ceremonies, with family approval, to honor students from the graduating class who died before reaching the milestone.

The provision was part of Policy 2405, Memorials and Commemoration, which establishes districtwide guidelines for recognizing deceased students and staff while providing trauma-informed support for grieving students, families and employees. The policy's approval follows months of discussion, community feedback and student advocacy.

The effort began as a student-led initiative at Sunnyside High School, where students called for more formal ways to recognize classmates who had died, particularly during milestone events.

Originally introduced in April, the proposed policy sought to create consistent and equitable guidelines for memorials throughout the district. However, the initial draft faced criticism from students, families and community members because it did not allow symbolic gestures such as empty chairs at graduation ceremonies.

Students who spoke

before the board argued that recognizing deceased classmates during graduation was not a glorification of death but a way to acknowledge lives that were part of the school community.

"The students that passed away were still part of our school and our graduating classes, so it feels wrong to have graduation ceremonies without acknowledging them as well," Aaron Waywell shared during an April 30 school board meeting.

During public comment on May 27, numerous speakers urged the board to adopt the revised policy and emphasized the importance of allowing students and families to openly acknowledge loss.

Among them was Sunnyside alumna Gisselly Montes, who shared the story of losing her best friend, Noemi Camacho, while they were students.

"When I was in high school, I lost my best friend," Montes told the board. "After we lost her, I asked for a way to honor her, and I was told no."

Montes said the new policy would help ensure future students and families receive the recognition she felt was missing after her friend's death.

"An empty chair is not just a chair," she said. "It's a space that says, 'You were here.' It says, 'You mattered.'"

Several speakers criticized what they described as past district practices that discouraged discussion about student deaths and urged school leaders to focus on both grief support and suicide prevention efforts.

Others argued that the policy



Courtesy/Andrew Hamil

reflects the cultural values of the Yakima Valley and Latino communities, where maintaining connections to loved ones after death is an important part of the grieving process.

A letter submitted by behavioral health provider and Sunnyside graduate Humberto Rodriguez argued that the policy balances established postvention practices with culturally responsive approaches.

"The chair at graduation is not a clinical intervention," Rodriguez wrote. "It is a cultural recognition. It is a community saying out loud what our families already know — that these students are still a part of us."

Despite differing opinions throughout the policy's development, speakers largely agreed on the importance of supporting grieving students and families.

The revised policy ultimately includes language stating, "With family approval, a chair may be set out for each deceased student from the graduating class."

With the board's approval of

Policy 2405, Sunnyside High School's graduation ceremonies will now include an opportunity to honor members of the graduating class whose lives ended before they could walk across the stage themselves.

For families who advocated for the change, the empty chairs will serve as a reminder that those students remain part of the Grizzly community.

"This symbolic representation in remembrance of these students is something that we believe should have happened a long time ago," Kayli ChavezBerk said. "An empty chair is not an object it's a recognition of life."

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Editor's Note: This story originally appeared in the Sunnyside Sun on June 3, 2026, after the policy was approved on May 27, 2026. It has been edited for the Graduation magazine.

Sunnyside Christian seniors step into the future

KENNIA PEREZ
Sunnyside Sun

GRANDVIEW — “Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise. Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

Those words from Proverbs 19:20-21 served as the Class of 2026 verse for Sunnyside Christian High School, offering both encouragement and guidance as graduates prepare to begin the next chapter of their lives.

Seventeen students crossed the stage Friday evening, June 5, as Sunnyside Christian High School celebrated its Graduation ceremony at the Grandview Nazarene Church. The ceremony marked the culmination of the graduates’ high school careers and the beginning of new opportunities.

Family members, friends and community supporters filled the church to recognize the students as they bid their time in high school goodbye.

“Our future is in God’s hands and His plan will prevail,” Devan Harrington, one of three



Kennia Perez/Sunnyside Sun

Members of the Sunnyside Christian School Class of 2026 celebrated their graduation on Friday, June 5, 2026, at the Grandview Nazarene Church in Grandview, Wash.

valedictorians, said. “God has watched over us in the past, He’s watching over us now, and He will continue to watch over us in the future.”

Harrington joined fellow valedictorians Aiden Andringa and Brett Andringa in addressing their classmates.

Throughout the evening, faculty members and community leaders shared words of encouragement. Kindergarten

teacher Trudy Long reminded graduates of lessons first learned in elementary school, encouraging them to remember the word “yet” when facing future challenges.

“In life, you will have struggles, things that are difficult to do or complicated,” she said. “When those times come, remember to say ‘yet.’ Don’t worry. You’ll eventually get it.”

Middle school teacher Megan Slager encouraged students to trust God through life’s changes.

“Growth happens through change,” she said. “God uses change, both good and bad, to mold us into who we need to be for Him.”

Basketball coach Stormee Van Belle encouraged graduates to remain teachable and committed to learning from others.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together,” she said.

Commencement speaker Jeremy Van Dam focused on the importance of remembering lessons learned and continuing to seek godly wisdom.

“I know you will remember these lessons that you’ve been taught and keep listening to God and Godly advice, and that you are already ready to be counted among the wise,” Van Dam said.

As members of the Class of 2026 crossed the stage to receive their diplomas, they shared their plans for the future, which included attending universities and trade schools or entering the workforce.

The ceremony concluded with graduates moving their tassels from right to left, symbolizing the completion of their high school careers.

Kennia Perez is a reporter at the Sunnyside Sun. Email kperez@sunnysidesun.com or call 509-837-4500 ext 110.



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Bickleton seniors reflect on close-knit school experience

ERICA KINGSBURY
Sunnyside Sun

A common theme emerged among the small graduating class of three at Bickleton High School: gratitude for the school and community that helped shape them.

Vanessa Del Rio, Thomas Tucker and Addison Whitmore may be preparing for the next chapter of their lives, but each says they will leave Bickleton with confidence and a strong sense of belonging.

Whitmore, a longtime Bickleton student who began attending the school in kindergarten, said she is grateful for the family-like atmosphere the school provides.

"Everybody knows everybody, and if you're struggling, people step in and help," Whitmore said. "It's a good environment for all kids."

Tucker, who transferred to Bickleton as a third grader, said the support he has received from both the school and the community has been one of the most meaningful parts of his experience. "Everyone at school and in the community is so caring toward one another," Tucker said.

Bickleton has long been known for its small class sizes, close relationships between students and staff, and opportunities for students to participate in academics, athletics and leadership activities. Students regularly receive one-on-one support from teachers, and in sports, participation opportunities are available to all students interested in competing.



Erica Kingsbury/Sunnyside Sun

Pictured left to right are Bickleton's 2026 graduating seniors: Thomas Tucker, Addison Whitmore, and Vanessa Del Rio.

Del Rio, who joined Bickleton as a sixth grader after moving to the United States from the Philippines, said she appreciated the chance to participate in sports and try activities she may not have experienced at a larger school.

In addition to athletics, all three seniors have participated in student government through Associated Student Body leadership roles during their high school years.

A participant in cross country, basketball and track, Tucker said his coaches helped shape his high school years by encouraging him to pursue new opportunities and believe in his abilities.

Whitmore began taking college classes as a junior, something she said helped prepare her for the academic workload ahead. Del Rio said participating in Poetry Out Loud helped strengthen her confidence and communication skills. She also credited English teacher Dr. Navarre with

encouraging her to pursue opportunities she may not have considered otherwise.

Each senior pointed to the school's close-knit environment as an important part of their personal growth throughout high school.

While Bickleton's small-school setting may not be the right fit for every student, the seniors said it offers unique advantages for those who value

smaller class sizes and strong student-teacher connections. One aspect students highlighted was the opportunity for younger and older students to interact daily under one roof, creating relationships that encourage mentorship and respect across grade levels.

"The social rules don't exist here, and it's really freeing," Del Rio said about the relationships between students across grades.

For these seniors, Bickleton was more than just a school. It was a place where they were known, encouraged, challenged and prepared for what comes next. Whitmore has signed a track and field scholarship with Bushnell University and plans to major in kinesiology. Del Rio plans to attend the University of Washington to pursue an English degree, while Tucker plans to enter the workforce and continue building his future close to home.

Erica Kingsbury is a Bickleton resident and correspondent for the Sunnyside Sun.

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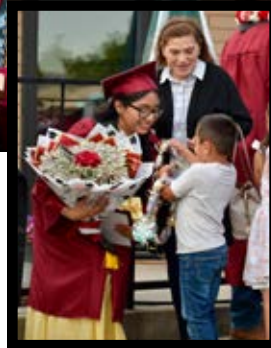


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Kennia Perez/Sunnyside Sun, Courtesy/Andrew Hamill

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Vanessa Del Rio
Thomas Tucker
Addison Whitmore



GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

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Fajardo, Elena Joy-Genesis Fay, Francisco Fernandez Garcia, Jennifer Figueroa, Dulce Concepcion Figueroa, Karlee Ann Fletcher Vela, Angel Damian Flores Bustos, Heriberto Sanchez Flores, Michael Rene Flores, Victoria Flores, Christopher Prince Frias, Pedro Damian Garcia Sahagun, Aniyah Giss Garcia, Eziquiel Diego Garcia, Dylan Cash Garza, Eduardo Guerrero Martinez, Victor Isaias Godinez Cruz, Jose Trinidad Godinez, Liliana Inez Godinez, Miguel Angel Gomez Lara, Angela Gomez Solis, Abraham Gomez, Dayami Gomez, Kahsandra Elaine Gomez, Michael Alex Gomez, Jaime Gonzalez Cisneros, Joselyn Gonzalez Magana, Salvador Gonzalez Nares, Angel Gabriel Gonzalez, Angela Yaritzy Gonzalez, David Gonzalez, Jakob Exavir Gonzalez, Malykai Alexander Gonzalez, Nickolas Nathan Gonzalez, Dutch George Graf, Christopher Granados Valencia, Brisa Nicol Gutierrez Jimenez, David Enrique Gutierrez, Oscar Alberto Hernandez Orozco Jr., Keyla Hernandez, Teresa Maria Elena Hernandez, Armando Jose Herrera, Dominic Isaih Herrera, Maritza Lanae Herrera, Angelina Huerta Dominguez, Valeria Jacobo, Jaelynn Alexia Jaimes-Arredondo, Tristan Joseph Jensen, Deegan Gary John,

Destenie Guadalupe Juarez, Noah James Lara, Ricardo Lara, Kardon Thai Le, Aileen Ledesma, Gisselle Ledesma-Diaz, Destiny Llamilex Lepe, Isaac Gabriel Lepe, Angel Cynthia April Licea, Uriel Lopez-Mendoza, Aubree Marie Lozano, Itxayana Lugo Armenta, Maria Guadalupe Lugo Mota, Yasmine Macias Mendoza, Coral Macias Perez, Alex Macias Saldana, Natalie Rae Macias, Kaylee Marie Maciel, Pedro Madera Nava Jr, Briana Madera Sierra, Karina Madera, Ceasar Cuauhtemoc Madrigal, Jocelyn Guadalupe Maldonado, Aisha Sofia Magana Godinez, Maria Alexandra Mancilla-Ceja, Karla Marquez, Lennin Victoriano Martinez Nunez, Brian Brandon Martinez, Dayamin Martinez, Izayah Ray Martinez, Jayne Alazay Martinez, Cael Oliver Matheny, Ethan Glenn McCallum, Francisco Medina Iii, Christian Mena Ocampo, Adan Felipe Mendez, Elias Corona Mendoza Ii, Alvin James Mendoza Vo, Aiden Mendoza, Briseida Dominguez Mendoza, Daisy Karina Mendoza, Rachelle Marie Mendoza, Saul Gomez Mendoza, Julian Miranda-Rabadan, Gabriel Ismael Montejano, Alexzander Rey Montelongo, Natalie Marie Montelongo, Marilena Isabel Montelongo-Solis, Nathan Anthony Montes De Oca, Alexander Leonel Montesinos Lima, Brianna Morales Coc, Joeziah Jesse Mujica, Maria Teresa Murillo Meza, Jesus Brian Ochoa Ramos, Allysson Concepcion Ochoa, Ashley Ochoa, Evelyn Aniyah Ochoa, Olivia Jennifer Olson, Armando Orduno, Alexander Orozco, Stephanie Silvina Ortiz Barragan, Miley Enedina Pacheco, Lyndsey Opal Padgham, Lenayda Monique Palacios, Emilia Elizabeth Palomarez, Richard Partida Martinez, Aidan Perez, Mathew Josiah Pineda, Anthony

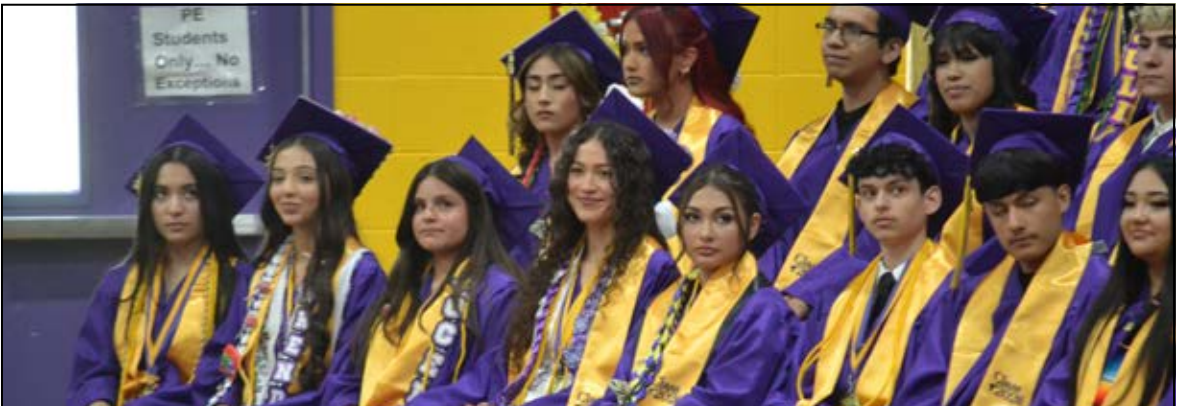
Rogelio Ponce, Aubrianna Alisia Quesada Beltran, Luis Daniel Rabadan Hernandez, Maximiano Ramirez Jr, Alessandra Ramirez, Caleb Alexander Ramirez, Dianira Ramirez, Irvin Ramos Martinez, Masiela Natalia Ramos, Valeria Ramos, Alexia Ramos-Madrigal, Giselle Ramos-Valencia, Nancy Itzel Rangel Barragan, Michael Elyshah Resendiz, Rosa Isela Reyna, Omar Rios Mendoza, Anthony Lee Rios, Antonio Jose Rivera Jr, Aerianna Renee Roberts, Jeshua Miguel Rodriguez, Emelyn Roman, Jose Angel Romero Rodriguez, Kevin Ruiz Martinez, Yartzel Saldana Ramos, Marqus Martin Saldana, Anthony Lopez Sanchez, Keyla Kesly Sanchez, Olga Noemi Sanchez, Laura Alexandra Sandoval, Mateo C Sepulveda, Emma Leigh Nicole Shephard, Jonathan James Smith, Seidy Itzel Solis, Katherine Tapia Hernandez, Joaquin Tapia, Belinda Torres Cuevas, Brenda Eleni Torres, Marlene Torres-Peralta, Camila Uribe, Ricardo Alexander Uribe, Alberto Valenzuela, Bree Abella Valenzuela, Brandon Josiah Valles, Aby Vaquera Serrano, Yeranlia Lizbeth Vargas Amezcua, Nicole Luz Vargas, Jaslene Nevaeh Vidaurri, Zoe Cailyn Villagomez Moreno, Jazmyn Gloria Williams, Blas Manuel Zambrano-Cortez Jr, Valeria Zamora-Mendez, Rigoberto Zaragoza Espinoza, Rudy Leandro Zavala, And Carmela Zepeda-Vega.

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Guadalupe Farias, Julian Izai Figueroa, Bianca Vianey Garcia Figueroa, Rubi Valencia Godez, Natalie Michelle Gomez, Fernando Isaias Gonzalez, Ian

Uriel Gonzalez, Francisco Javier Gonzalez Sanchez, Dwayne Guerrero, Ayleen Hernandez, Carlos Hernandez, Hayde Lopez, Jared Lopez Macias, Mateo Isreal Marquez, Ariela Gimena Martinez, Maribel Martinez, Brenda Yadira Medina, Maximillian Jason Mejia, Citali Flores Mendoza, Kay Ramos Mireles, Jennifer Ramos Morales, Aaron Diaz Moreno, Victor Ivan Moreno-Martinez, Azulemi Clarisa Olivares-Trujillo, Deniz

Jasmin Reyna, Eleya Alize Dardon Rivera, Dion Felipe Rodriguez, Melanie Verdin Rodriguez, Armando Chavez Rojas, David Rafahi Salgado, Heidi Clara Sanchez, Francisco Hernandez Sanchez, Javier Flores Sanchez, Angel Adrian Gonzalez Sanchez, Anjelisa Hennessee Rose Soliman, Sheyla Denisse Ramos Tellez, Esmeralda Vazquez, Carmen Zaferino-Cantu, and Alana Marlene Zavala.

PROSSER HIGH SCHOOL

Fernando Martinez Alonso, Rebeka Alvarez, Jennifer Alvarez-Armentas, Bryseida Anahi Lopez Ambriz, Isabel Angulo, Soraya Aranda, Lisette Araujo, Cristian Avendano-Delgado, Bryce Clay Baggerly, Elise Bagnall, Kennedy Bailey, Jayson A. Gomez Baldovinos, Liberty Marie Rose Barnes, Payton Belle Baudrau, Emma Lea Bell, Hunter Skye Berk, Mia Michelle Blackburn, Aiden Michael Blair, Alejandro Gael Ortiz Bobadilla, Cecilia Madera Bonilla, Savannah Diane Bosted, Violet Joy Boyle, Lexi Shay Brown, Kalimba Lorenzo Burford, Jocelyn Naomi Campos, Alex Javier Campuzano, Alyssa Noelle Cantu, David Arturo Cardoza, Evan Christian Carey, Gavin Scott Case, Juan Jose Castro, Yarelli Alejandra Cervantes, Harley Rose Chester, Lenna Choi, Benjamin Ricardo Chumpitazi, Tony Hector Clara, Brandon Keith Clarke, Noelia Kaelie Lupita Lia Copado, Noemie Raelie Lupita Mia Copado, Jose Luis Heredia Corona Jr, Dalin Adrian Cortes, Christina Covarrubias, Fe Roselia Betancourt Cruz, Leslie De La Cruz-Sanchez, Austin Charles Dawsey, Salvador Said Serrano Delgado, Angel Villegas Diaz, Edmond Francis Doherty IV, Valery Dominguez, Brizeida Roman Dorantes, Alison Makinsie Dragoo, Kevin Anthony Enriquez, Cinthia Cruz



Escobar, Rory C Esparza-Jensen Jr, Norelly Espinoza-Caraveo, Alvaro Espinoza-Zamora, Daniel Arnulfo Favela-Rodriguez, Colin Mathew Ferguson, Liam Kristian Ferguson, Douglas Joe Flaugh, Alexandra Micailina Flores, Elleana Maria Flores, Rowyn Grace Flores-Bailey, Valeria Maria Macias Galindo, Natalee Ann Gange, Alyssa Rose Garcia, Isabella Garcia, Miguel Angel Garcia, Joshua Aded Cuevas Garcia, Gabriel J. Humbyrd Girard, Kevin Gomez, Italy Veronica Gonzalez, Richy Diego Gonzalez, Zofia Aiko Zapien Gonzalez, Jassir Gonzalez-Valdez, Addison Rose Graff, William Carl Griffith, Andrea Jasmin Gudiel, Miguel Angel Guerra-Gonzalez, Erick Eduardo Gutierrez Jr, Karina Gutierrez, Hailey Karyme Gutierrez, Kaitlyn G Gutierrez, Juvenal A. Ramirez Gutierrez, Alexander Hernandez, Ivan G. Andrade Hernandez, Angelina Esperanza Hernandez, Karla Yadira Barajas Herrera, Ava Den Hoed, Jaidyn Shane Houser-Tucker, Katharine Renee Hudak, Callie Louise Hurt, Alexis Eduardo Hurtado, Brandon Manuel Ibarra, Blaney Ibarra, Eva Neci Jaimes, Lily Aurelia Jensen, Samantha Jimenez,

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TOPPENISH HIGH SCHOOL



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Ea, Tay La May Enick, Carol Elaine Kat Eppinette, Alina Escamilla, Jeziah Reed Esparza Garcia, Samuel Alberto Espinoza Garza, Angel Esquivel Cebrero, Stephanie Fajardo, Efrain Fajardo Flores, Miguel Felan, Kaimi Kuhimana Fish, Daisy Guadalupe Francisco, Nataly Franco, Jesus Emilio Fruto Jimenez, Katalynn Elyzabeth Galvan, Jose Angel Gaona, Anthony Alexander Garza, Ismael Gil, Celene Antionette Godina, Jodeci Joziach Godina, Daniel Saul Godines, Raul Emir Godinez, Sofia Gomez Padilla*, Aleena Yuri Gonzalez, Gizelle Madalene Gonzalez, Yocelin Gonzalez Avalos, Estefani Guerrero, Yadira Selenia Guerrero Rios, Karla Belen Guizar, Damaris Gutierrez Hernandez, Yareli Abigail Guzman, Jeremias Daniel Guzman Juarez, Andres Hernandez, Tegan Isaiah Hernandez, Eduardo Hernandez Silva, Valerie Monique Herrera, Ivan Alexander Herrera Flores, Kyra Jade Hurley, Victor Alejandro Hurtado, Kristian Ivan Iniguez Mejia, Iggy Jack, Latonya Rose James Heemsah, Aiden Cesar Jimenez, Belen Jaslyn Jimenez, Lenay Jimenez, Lizbeth Jimenez, Marcus Valentin Jimenez, Jasmine Bianca Jimenez Sierra, Adrian Jimenez Zarate, Octavea Jasmin John, Nashua Wilford Johnley, Briseida Juarez, Kimberly Lara Cervantes, Devante Andrew Lewis, Emmanuel Linares, Jordyn Rome Lopez, Tanya Jocelyn Lopez, Jaide Lopez Mendoza, Jesus Emmanuel Lopez Ochoa,

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Nicolas Robles Robles Lomeli, Luis Angel Robles Rodriguez, Jessiah Guadalupe Rodarte, Alina Esmeralda Rodriguez, Alize Destiny Rodriguez, Desiree Eliana Rodriguez, Eden Anais Rodriguez, Guadalupe Jesus Rodriguez, Iliana Kimora Aislynn Rodriguez, Noah Nathaniel Rodriguez, Edgar Roman-Valadez, Steve Romero Jr, Ricardo J.R. Rosales, Viktoria Isabella Ruiz, Nicholas Andrew Sampson, Andrew Joseph Sanchez, Alex Sanchez, Alina Jaslene Sanchez, Elmar Sanchez, Jason Lazaro Sanchez, Lexa Sanchez, Soledad Sanchez, Kevin Sanchez Cruz, Jennifer Sanchez Garcia, Adrian Michael Sanchez Jr, Sara Ebelen Sanchez Lupercio*, Audie Dean Sanchez Mccord, Reed Von Sekaquaptewa, Samuel George Selam, Oziah Edward Sifuentes Troy, Julissa Silva, Saira Paola Silva Amezcuita, Vanessa Silva Pesina, Mark Smith, Samuel Walter Stiner, Ruben Leeroy Milks Tarula, Shaniya Sheryl Milks Tarula, Charlee Samantha Jean Tilley, Melakai Konapilahi Tisalona, Jermiah Angel Torres, Nataly Torres, Sophia Maria Estella Torrez, Charlene Alexandria Underwood, Arion Adonis Valencia, Melissa Mariah Valencia, Lino Aiden Vasquez, De' Anthony Xavier Vazquez, Valeria Rodriguez Velasco, Aharon Moises Veliz Cortes, Krystian Omar Veliz Cortes, David Felipe Venancio, Martin J Verduzco Jr, Mia Vanessa Vidales*, Lladira Guadalupe Vidrio, Cynthia Yuridia Villa Chavez, Hailie Zuniga Villalobos, Izabella Villaruel, Eric Daniel Villegas, Lyle Wade Wapsheli, Alia Washines, Leandro Rae Washines, Nolana Janine Wilson, Tyler Wyena, Ramiro Yopez Jr, Lupita Marisol Zapata, Cecilia Maritza Zarate Hernandez, and Justyce A Zuniga.

ZILLAH HIGH SCHOOL



Esperanza Alejandre, Sadie Anderson, Estefani Antonio Vivanco, Jacqueline Arredondo, Logan Balch, Julian Calzada, Yolanda Campusano, Briseida Cisneros, Finn Clark, Tyson Colton, Aiden Conrady, Lydia Crowthor, Kaydn Cuevas, Tyler Curfman, Darian Curiel Guerrero, Henry Davenport, Henry Davis, Ryan Delorme, Phillip Desjarlais, Olivia Diaz, Rossalyn Dominguez, Terence Elenes, Aiden Erickson, Riko Escobar, Citlali Espinoza, Aysia Garcia, Elijah Garcia, Yandel Garcia-Barajas, Andre

George, Isabella Gonzalez, Ivan Gonzalez, Annayeli Gonzalez-Gatica, Emily Gonzalez-Ramirez, Justin Graham, Daniel Green, Blake Groeneweg, Diana Gudino Chavez, Marely Hernandez, Bailea Hinojosa, Anabella Hunter,

Jonas Husch, Connor Hutt, Tara Jake, Robert Johnson, Addison Johnston, Memphis Jones, Maximus Jordan, Reyli Jurado, Nathan Kibbe, Jayden Koerner-Hinchey, Maci Koerner-Steinmetz, Westin Layman, Riley Lealos, Osiel Licea, Lia Lindstrand, Jocelyn Lopez, Leonel Lustre, Lisandra Mendez Chavez, Madyson Morrison, Elijha Mucino-Echaniz, Carlos Orozco, Daniel Quintana-Barajas, Jadalyn Ramirez, Carlos Ramos, Yadir Reynoso Rivera, Melanie Rodriguez,

Martin Rojas, Hezekiah Ruiz, Caleb Rutherford, Jayden Saenz, Garrett Sander, Dylan Schlosser, William Seibert, Jazlyn Sosa, Makayla Stuckel, Tadmym Sturm, Elijah Suarez, Sarah Suarez, John Taylor, Ryan Thraikill, Jonathan Torres, Shaylynn Truman, Jake Turner, Ryan Vader, Jorge Valencia, Dekker Van De Graaf, Amy Visoso, Jayden Walker, Jazmin Wattlamet, Laek Wilson, Jaylee Wingardner, Sara Yanez-Barcenas, Julian Yanez-Pina, Rihanna Yanez-Pina, Laine York, Laryssa Zuniga.

Editor's Note: The following students graduated from Yakima Valley College, earning certificates, associate degrees or bachelor's degrees. Students are listed by city and last name.



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Sandoval, Sariah Valencia Santos, Oswaldo J. Wong,

Prosser: Alba Aguilar, Beatriz Arreguin, Magali Atilano, Andrea Belala, Jessica Corona, Jessica Gabriela Corona, Judith Gonzalez, Lorenza Gonzalez Guerra, Maricruz Gonzalez Lopez, Teresa Y. Gutierrez, Rocio Huth, Levi Martinez, Ilce K. Mendoza, MaleahAnn Manuela Mendoza, Julie Salcedo Bueno, Javier Lino Tapuy Calapucha, Gabriela Torres,

Toppenish: Sugar Lily Alviso-Rodriguez, Susana Barragan-Villegas, Esmeralda Benavides, Johana Bravo, Ariana Mariah Brown, Adriana Aliah Chavez, Bianca Chavez-Sanchez, Kristal Cortes-Sanchez, Jessenia Cruz, Juana Cruz, Adelina Cuevas, Guadalupe Cuevas, Rosalinda Cuevas, Alexander De La Torre, Olivia Diaz, Sabrina Diaz, Crystal Diaz Alonso, Sandy Estrada-Mendoza, Lorena Gomez, Yadiria Guerrero-Rios, Xitlaly Jimenez, Lizbeth Jimenez, Magdalyne Kaercher, Tejawny Kreis-Huereca, Jaide Lopez-Mendoza, Pascual Jr. Mariscal, Daniel E. Martinez, Darlene Mendoza-Cervantes, Patricia A. Monoian, Adalyne Montiel, Patricia Ortiz Jimenez, Hildsandra Payan Jimenez, Daniel G. Perez-Velasco, Bree Jewel Peters, Esmeralda Ramos, Ivan J. Robledo, Canuto Jr. Rodriguez, Toni Roth, Sally Sanchez, Luis Enrique Sanchez Garcia, Alessandra Spindola-Cuevas, Nataly Torres, Yesenia Valencia, Maria Villafan,,

Zillah: Ariana Aguilar, Martin Alejandro, Sadie E. Anderson, Lydia C. Crowther, Ana Bertha Flores, Esmeralda Flores Guerrero, Lucia Gallegos Santana, Aysia Garcia, Lincoln Carlos Garcia, Efrain P. Hernandez, Favian Elias Hernandez, Andrew T. Holsinger, Abigail Lynn Kallenberger, Liam Krause, Maria Licea, Maria Elena Licea Gomez, David Martinez, Lhaila Moran, Alexia Navarro, Alexandra C. Obert, Jayden Saenz, Daniela Koraima Sanchez, Lucia G. Santana, Jaden Richard Santana, William Seibert, Sarah S. Suarez, Ryan Vader, Rihanna Yanez-Pina, Laine York,

Delta Kappa Gamma awards scholarships to three Lower Valley students

The Alpha Lambda Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International has awarded scholarships to three Lower Yakima Valley students pursuing careers in education.

Natalie Copeland, who is studying mathematics at Western Governors University, was one of the recipients. She said her goal as a future teacher is to build an inclusive classroom environment.

"Being a great teacher is not just about how well you know the subject; it's about knowing your students," Copeland said. "My number one goal in my future classroom will be foster inclusivity so that every student feels seen and cared for."

Olivia Mears, daughter of Jennifer Mears and granddaughter of Kathy Mears, also received a scholarship.



Pictured above left to right are Natalie Copeland and President Robin Smith; Sadie Alseth; and Jennifer Mears, Olivia Mears, and Kathy Mears.

She is majoring in elementary education with a minor in special education at Central Washington University.

Mears said the scholarship represents a continuation of her family's connection to education in the Lower Valley.

"It would mean that the work my grandmother began, and my mom continues, is something



I now have the opportunity to carry forward," she said. "That connection to this community is something I value deeply, and it motivates me to give back in a meaningful way."

Sadie Alseth, a student at Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa, is also pursuing a degree in elementary education. She plans to become a kindergarten



Courtesy/Pat Bonnell

teacher and hopes to work in a low-income school district.

"I believe that it is important that all students deserve access to quality education," Alseth said.

The Lower Yakima Valley chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma awards scholarships annually to women from the area who are pursuing degrees in education.

Nouvella Club Scholarship winners named



Robin Smith/Nouvella Club

Nouvella club scholarship chairperson Alix Carlson presented the 2026 scholarship recipients (left to right) Neveah McCormick, Violet Boyle, Darrin VanderMeulen, Dezmon Martinez and Mendoza \$4,750 for academic and trade school studies. Also pictured is scholarship co-chair Debbie Mendoza.

The Sunnyside Nouvella Club awarded nearly \$5,000 in scholarships to Lower Valley high school graduates during its May meeting.

Neveah McCormick and Violet Boyle, both of Prosser High School, and Dezmon Martinez of Sunnyside High School each received \$1,250 academic scholarships.

Nouvella scholarship chair Alix Carlson said both McCormick and Boyle plan to attend Washington State University, where McCormick

will study nursing and Boyle will focus on hospitality and business. Martinez plans to study in the electrical program at Perry Technical Institute.

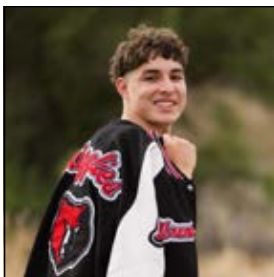
Darrin VanderMeulen of Sunnyside Christian High School and David Hildago Mendoza of Sunnyside High School each received \$500 scholarships. VanderMeulen plans to study agricultural business at Dordt College, and Mendoza plans to study automotive technology at Perry Technical Institute.

Soroptimist award scholarships to 5 young women

The Soroptimist of the Lower Valley awarded five \$2,300 scholarships during its annual scholarship dinner held Thursday, May 21, 2026, at Bon Vino's Bistro and Bakery. Pictured are scholarship committee members and award recipients, from left: Natalie Benson, Martina Charvet, Neveah McCormick of Prosser High School, Sadie Anderson of Zillah High School, Corrina Slade of Granger High School, Iris Deng of Prosser High School and Gina Gamboa. Not pictured are Addison F. Whitmore of Bickleton High School and Kare Erickson.



Courtesy/Soroptimist of the Lower Valley



Kobie Abrams
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Become an elementary teacher.
Favorite quote: "Never put off for tomorrow what can be done today." Sensei Wu
Favorite memory: When my pet chameleon let me hold him finally.



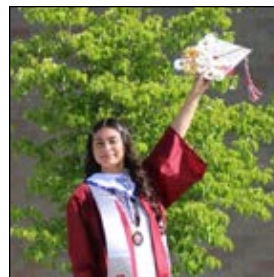
Adrian Arregui
Grandview High School

Future plans: Continue my education at YVC to earn an Associate's degree then transfer to a University to earn a Bachelor's.
Favorite quote: "I am the gatekeeper of my own destiny and I will have my glory day in the hot sun!" Nacho Libre



Jose Ayala
Sunnyside High School & YVC

Future plans: To finish my prerequisites this fall at Yakima Valley Community College for the Physical Therapy Assistant Program for Whatcom Community College.
Favorite quote: "Scared money, don't make money."
Favorite memory: Wrestling at far away tournaments with my friends and qualifying for the state tournament as a first generation wrestler.



Morelia Bajonero
Grandview High School

Future plans: Go to Heritage to pursue my career in early education.
Favorite quote: "It makes such a difference said Pooh, to have someone who believes in you."



Karla Barajas Herrera
Prosser High School

Future plans: Attend CWU for elementary education and become a 3rd grade teacher.
Favorite quote: "Laugh now, cry later."



Gabrielle Berger
Granger High School

Future plans: She plans to attend Eastern Washington University.
Favorite quote: "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." Romans 8:18
Favorite memory: My favorite memory was winning State for Wrestling my Junior year and then repeating it again my Senior year.



Kris Bonilla
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Attend University of Washington and study in Aerospace Engineering to eventually work for Airbus in France.
Favorite memory: Attending all the after school events where I have met all the people which I'm closest to now. Whether that was competitions, sports events, or theater activities, I won't forget those moments.



Katelyn Bonny
Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, College of Medicine

Future plans: Family medicine resident physician at Central Washington Family Medicine.



Lili Briones
Sunnyside High School & YVC

Future plans: I plan to attend Arizona Western College play softball and study Biology.
Favorite quote: "It's not the end of the world, it's just the end of the game." My Mom
Favorite memory: My favorite memory from high school is playing fastpitch with my best friends.



Audrina Campos
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Attend Washington State University to study Criminology & Criminal Justice with a minor in psychology.
Favorite quote: "Before you give up, think about the reason you've held on so long." Frank Ocean.
Favorite memory: My favorite memory was placing 4th at districts for girls wrestling and making it to state my first year ever being on the mat.



Isabella Cardenas
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: My future plans is to become a Vet, my goal is to have a Doctorate within that field. I plan to accomplish that goal by going to YVC for my AA for 1 to 2 years then go to Texas to receive the rest of my education while at a college over there.
Favorite quote: "When a flower doesn't bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower." Alexander Den Heijer
Favorite memory: My favorite memory would have to be when I went to Great Wolf Lodge my first time as a kid, I went with my family and some cousins but I love that memory because it just reminds me of how perfect just one moment can be to make me miss my childhood.



Cristal Cervantes
Granger High School

Future plans: Attend heritage university
Favorite quote: "One day you'll look back and see how God has guided you through every step."



Alyssa Chaput
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Finish my AA in Business at YVCC, then transfer to UW for my bachelor's.
Favorite quote: "Don't let your dreams just be dreams."

Editor's Note: Graduates are listed in order alphabetically by last name. Each graduate profile was submitted by students or their family members via our website prior to the June 12, 2026 deadline. Graduate profiles submitted after June 12, 2026 are available online at sunnysidesun.com/graduation.



Leylah Chavez
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: My future plans are to attend college and pursue a sonography degree.
Favorite quote: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." Winston Churchill



Cristian Downs
Grandview High School

Future plans: My plans are to attend the University of Washington and become a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Favorite quote: My favorite quote is "Don't ruin a good today by thinking about a bad yesterday."
Favorite memory: My favorite memories are becoming homecoming royalty twice and be crowned prom king.



Alesandra Gonzalez
Sunnyside High School & YVC

Future plans: Pursue a degree in Health/ Science at a 4 year University.
Favorite quote: "Just do it."



Devan Harrington
Sunnyside Christian High School

Future plans: I plan to attend Eastern Washington University to study Biology in hopes of one day becoming a veterinarian.



Hannah Clapp
Sunnyside Christian High School

Future plans: Attend Dordt University for an Agriculture degree. Return home and give back to my community.
Favorite quote: "Live your life so close to Jesus, that the dust from his foot steps covers you. Stay dusty." Ray Vander Laan
Favorite memory: Getting to compete in state tournaments for basketball and softball multiple times.



Celene Godina
Toppenish High School

Future plans: My future plans are to be in the art industry and hopefully work for the Robert & Ethel Kennedy Human Rights organization. It is a non-profit organization founded in 1968 that advocates for social justice, human rights, and accountability. Robert F. Kennedy is a historical figure I look up to, and would hopefully do the things he had been able to accomplish.
Favorite quote: My favorite quote is from senator Robert F. Kennedy from his Tiny Ripple Of Hope Speech; "each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others or strikes out against injustice. He sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest wall of oppression and resistance."
Favorite memory: My favorite memory was getting to spend time with my teachers. I loved my film history class and watching films about the Cuban Missile Crisis. I loved talking about all my Kennedy knowledge. I loved getting the opportunity to watch JFK 1991 by Kevin Costner over 300 times! (Yea I really did that...) I'm really going to miss all the special connections I had with my teachers, especially the history department and ASB!



Ryker Heeringa
Sunnyside High School



Cruz Delgado
Grandview High School

Future plans: Become a psychologist.



Angela Gomez Solis
Grandview High School

Future plans: I want to go to YVC for the career Medical Assistant.
Favorite quote: "Vive tu vida y aprecia lo que tienes, enfócate, tú sabes lo que te mereces." Junior H.



Justin Graham
Zillah High School

Future plans: After high school I'm looking forward to go into the union for plumbing and for the summer I'm gonna be working full time at Valley Wide Co-op to save up money for my plans in the future.
Favorite quote: "Life always finds a way." Dr. Ian Malcom (Jeff Goldblum)
Favorite memory: My favorite memory is when me parents pushed me hard for working and always helping out with people even know and to this day it's led me to a good work ethic and experience with manual labor and getting my hands dirty and that's why I chose the union for plumbing.



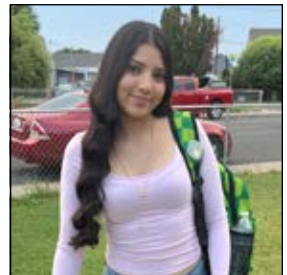
Marisol Diaz Mendoza
Toppenish High School

Future plans: I plan to attend Yakima Valley College and get my teaching degree.
Favorite quote: "Lo que a veces parece un final, es simplemente un nuevo comienzo."



Jesse Gonzalez, Jr.
Heritage University

Future plans: Apply to graduate school.
Favorite quote: "Memento Mori."
Favorite memory: Summer internship WSU in Prosser.



Maritza Gutierrez
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Next stop is Eastern, Physical Therapist
Favorite quote: "CHOPPED!!!!"
Favorite memory: Her whole life is my favorite memory. You are a wonderful person... in and out!



Estevan Hernandez
Central Washington University



Baileia Hinojosa
Zillah High School



Serenity Ibarra
Sunnyside High School



Timmo Lemos
Sunnyside High School



Eric Lopez
Granger High School

Future plans: I plan to start my career in the trades, by securing an electrical apprenticeship and work on becoming a licensed journeyman.
Favorite quote: "Nothing in life is promised except death." Kanye West
Favorite memory: My favorite memory has to be hosting team nights for my football teammates. We shared so many laughs and great times outside of practice.



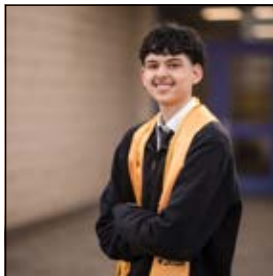
Aubree Lozano
Grandview High School

Future plans: Attend CBC to become a Radiologist
Favorite quote: "With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26
Favorite memory: Qualified for state for the first time in Grandview cheer history!



Sebastian Medina
Granger High School

Future plans: Go to college.
Favorite quote: "The future is not in the hands of fate, but in ours." Jules Jussierad



Maximillian Mejia
Mabton High School & YVC

Future plans: I will be attending the University of Washington this fall and plan to study computer engineering.
Favorite memory: Hanging out with friends on the bus during basketball and soccer traveling games.



Luis Mendoza
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Luis will be working in uncle's business and learn about how to become a business owner. Plans on attending college in the future and achieve a Business Admin Degree in Entrepreneurship



Angel Lugo-Guzman
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Play college football at Whitworth University and earn a degree in Computer Science UI/UX
Favorite quote: "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard." Kevin Durant
Favorite memory: Wenatchee camp when I accidentally caught a pass as a lineman and accidentally scored a touchdown and then I had to do burpees.



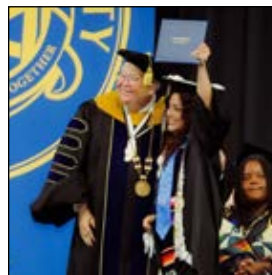
Ramon Moncivaiz Jr.
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Start college at YVC for business.
Favorite quote: "I got this!"



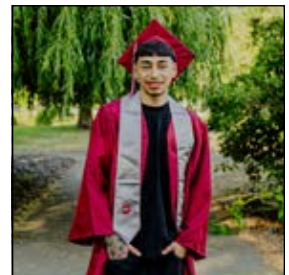
Natalie Montelongo
Grandview High School

Future plans: After high school, I plan to do the Respiratory Therapist program at CBC.



Adriana Morfin
Heritage University

Future plans: Become TEFL certified to teach English as a second language in foreign countries.
Favorite quote: "I am the I am."



Julian Miranda
Grandview High School

Future plans: Perry Technical Institute.



Diana Morfin

Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Attend WSU with a bachelors towards the medical field.

Favorite quote: "Si Dios quiere."

Favorite memory: Freshman year volleyball games.



Gunner Porter

Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Gunner plans to attend WSU while obtains pre reqs into the occupation of physical therapy. Plans to also remain active with his community.

Favorite quote: "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." Babe Ruth

Favorite memory: Favorite memory would be all the times spent with at football/baseball games, practices, camps, bus rides, games, food, and friends.



Jayden Saenz

Zillah High School

Future plans: I plan on attending WSU to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering

Favorite quote: "Don't tell me the sky is the limit when there are footprints on the moon."

Favorite memory: My Junior going into senior year summer, I had went in a trip to Port Angeles for basketball. LOTS of memories were made there.



Marissa Morfin

Heritage University

Future plans: I am currently debating on becoming a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner or Nurse Anesthetist. Either way, I plan to help build programs for our rural communities that are living in food and medical deserts and giving back to the lower valley as best I can.

Favorite quote: "It's never too late to change your life."

Favorite memory: I work with the elderly at a nursing home as a nurse tech and my favorite memories are being able to make them feel seen and taken care of in their most vulnerable moments.



Briehanna Quintero

Sunnyside High School

Future plans: After graduating from Sunnyside High School, I plan to move to Richland to attend Columbia Basin College where will work toward my Associate of Arts degree and continue my education in Health Sciences.

Favorite quote: "We accept the love we think we deserve." Stephen Chbosky

Favorite memory: My favorite memory was when our community came together at the April school board meeting to support the graduation memorial policy. It was inspiring to see everyone stand united and support one another. It's a moment I will never forget.



Isaac Sanchez

Sunnyside High School & YVC

Future plans: Will start my Bachelor's of Applied Science in Business Management in the Fall at YVC.

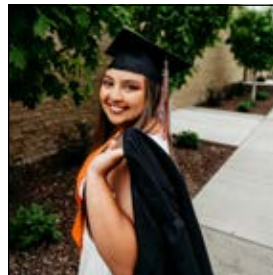
Favorite quote: "The World is Yours."



Jisela Munguia

Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Jisela plans to work and travel.



Jadalyn Ramirez

Zillah High School

Future plans: Get associates directed in Wenatchee Valley College for 2 years. Be successful in Athletic Training. Transfer to Eastern Washington University for the rest of my athletic training.

Favorite quote: "If things get tough, figure it out and BSTRONG doing it." Brandie Valadez

Favorite memory: My favorite memory was the first day of school and everyone welcomed me right away.



Naydelin Sandoval

Granger High School

Future plans: Attend a 4 year college and study Psychology

Favorite quote: "Don't be long in a place you don't belong."



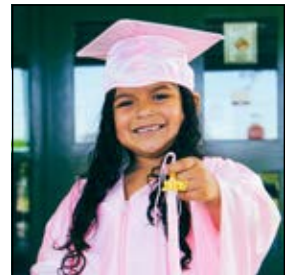
Maria Murillo Meza

Grandview High School

Future plans: Attend Gonzaga University to major in political science with a minor in international studies.

Favorite quote: "Mientras uno esté vivo uno debe amar lo más que pueda." Bad Bunny

Favorite memory: Attending FFA state.

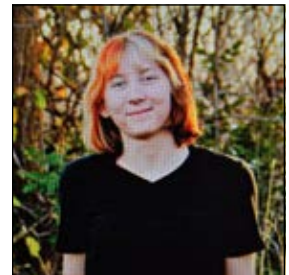


Alana Ruiz

*Arthur H. Smith
Elementary School*

Future plans: Get ready for kindergarten

Favorite memory: Celebrating my birthday with my class.



Brittney Schlax

Sunnyside High School

Future plans: I really enjoy working with animals, maybe on to being a vet.

Favorite quote: "Once you realize what you want, nothing can stop you!"



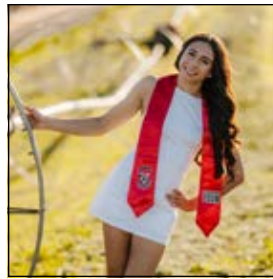
Anjelisa Soliman
Mabton Jr. Sr. High School

Future plans: I plan on going to law school to legally assist people in any legal situation they need. (Paralegal or Legal Assistant) To get my Associates degree and Bachelor's.
Favorite quote: "You're going to make a difference. A lot of the times it won't be huge, it won't even be visible then. But it will matter just the same." James Gordon (Batman Comics)
Favorite memory: My favorite memory was going to seaside for the first time.



Jazlyn Sosa
University of Washington

Future plans: Plans to attend the University of Washington to obtain a Master's degree in Business, Marketing.
Favorite quote: "God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day." Psalm 46:5
Favorite memory: One of my favorite memories from high school was cheer season. One of the things I will miss most is getting to cheer under the Friday night lights alongside my teammates and school community. The excitement, school spirit, and memories made throughout each season created experiences and friendships that I will always cherish.



Danica Torres
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Obtain my bachelors in psychology at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, Oregon
Favorite quote: "Once you have wrestled, everything else in life is easy." Dan Gable
Favorite memory: My favorite memory from high school is the long van rides me and my girls would take for wrestling and hearing my coaches always complain about what I put on.



Yanellie Torres
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Attend CBC and become a nurse assistant
Favorite quote: "No such thing as a life that's better than yours."



Jake Turner
Zillah High School

Future plans: Wide world of work.
Favorite quote: Goofy.
Favorite memory: Winning state.



Ryan Vader
Zillah High School &
Yakima Valley College

Future plans: Currently working for the family business and looking into Perry Tech or an apprenticeship.
Favorite memory: Definitely wining the state title for wrestling!



Noe Valdez
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Become an civil engineering worker.
Favorite quote: "It's okay to fail, there is not a time in the world that's going to stop, keep going and build your way up. Nothing is never too late."
Favorite memory: When me and my friends would be in the same class laughing at dumb stuff, even when we were assigned in different seats.



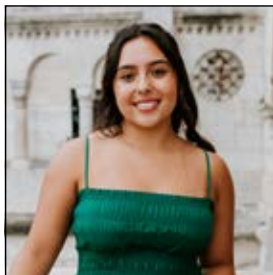
Darrin VanderMeulen
Sunnyside Christian High School

Future plans: This summer, Darrin will work on the family farm and attend the RYS Convention. He will then attend Dordt University, majoring in Agricultural Technology with an emphasis in Farm Operations and Management.
Favorite quote: "A little hard work never hurt anyone." My Pake (grandfather). "Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble employment of man." George Washington
Favorite memory: Attending the FFA State and National Convention and skipping class to go plant corn on the farm.



Aby Vaquera
Grandview High School

Future plans: My future plans are to attend Washington State University and pursue a career in nursing. I want to earn my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and work at DaVita where I can care for patients and support families during difficult times. In the future, I hope to continue my education, gain leadership experience in healthcare, and give back to my community by helping improve access to quality medical care.
Favorite quote: "You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, Love like you'll never be hurt, Sing like there's nobody listening, And live like it's heaven on earth." William W. Purkey
Favorite memory: One of my favorite memories was going out to eat carne asada for lunch with my friends. It was a simple moment, but we laughed, talked, and enjoyed spending time together. Sharing good food and making memories with people I care about made the experience special. It reminded me how important friendship and quality time are in life.



Sariah Wise Maldonado
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: Attend the University of Washington, become a Nurse Practitioner, and provide healthcare world wide.
Favorite quote: "Yass queen skinny legend Versace boots the house down, slay queen hunty mama annah oop daddy work."
Favorite memory: When the University of Washington President's Office sent a representative all the way to Sunnyside to surprise me with a big scholarship.



Shaun Wise
Sunnyside High School

Future plans: I am going 2 year in a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and after that 2 years I am planning to attend BYU Idaho.
Favorite quote: "Witness your dream."
Favorite memory: Eating out after XC and track meets with friends.



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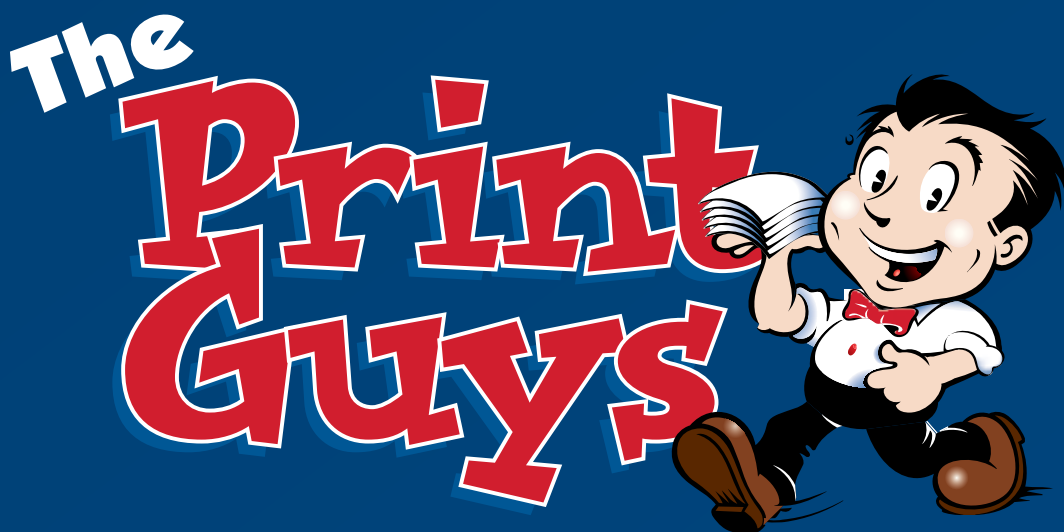
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